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REMARKS:Status

After this response, claims 1 to 16, 18 and 19 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 13 and 16 have been amended, claim 17 has been cancelled, and claims 18 and 19 have been added. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 13 and 16 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Specification and Drawings

The specification and figure 3 of the drawings have been amended to address the objections thereto raised by the Office Action. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

The preamble of claim 1 was objected to for having an improperly placed semicolon. Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the semicolon, as well as to somewhat simplify the language of the preamble. No change in scope is intended by these amendments.

Additionally, independent claim 9 has been amended along the lines of claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 5, 8, 13 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any

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intervening claims. Claims 5, 8, 13 and 16 have been so amended, with additional amendments to the preambles matching those made to the preambles of claims 1 and 9. No change in scope is intended by the changes to the preambles. Accordingly, allowance of claims 5, 8, 13 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,853 (Kedem). Claim 17 was also rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,835,694 (Hodges). Claims 3, 4, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kedem.

Claims 1 to 4, 6 and 7: Amended independent claim 1 is reproduced below:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having a file system that controls reads and writes to a set of disks in which a RAID subsystem provides redundancy among groups of said disks, a method including
 - identifying one or more disks to be made temporarily inactive so as to permit movement of said identified disks;
 - responding, by said file system, to said identification by marking said identified disks read-only; and
 - indicating when said inactive disks are made active again.

The applied Kedem reference is not seen by Applicants to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, at least with respect to responding to identification of one or more disks, with the disks to be made temporarily inactive so as to permit movement of the identified disks, by marking the identified disks read-only.

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In this regard, Kedem discloses a RAID-configured disk drive array. Kedem includes a discussion of reading data located on a disk drive in the RAID array that has failed. A specific and detailed example is given at col. 10, line 50, to col. 12, line 38, of Kedem. However, Applicants note that this operation concerns a disk that has failed. In contrast, amended claim 1 concerns one or more disks that are marked inactive so as to permit movement of the disks, which may (or may not) be fully functional before being moved. Applicants see no mention in Kedem of operations performed on disks identified so as to permit movement of the disks.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the rejections of claim 1 and its dependent claims, as is allowance of those claims.

Claims 9 to 12, 14 and 15: Claim 9 is reproduced below:

9. In a computer system having a file system that controls reads and writes to a set of disks in which a RAID subsystem provides redundancy among groups of said disks, an apparatus including a memory and a processor, wherein said memory includes
an instruction for identifying one or more disks to be made temporarily inactive so as to permit movement of said identified disks;
an instruction for responding, by said file system, to said identification by marking said identified disks read-only; and
an instruction for indicating when said inactive disks are made active again.

The applied Kedem reference is not seen by Applicants to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 9, at least with respect to an instruction for responding to identification of one or more disks, with the disks to be made temporarily inactive so as to permit movement of the identified disks, by marking the identified disks read-only. Accordingly,

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reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the rejections of claim 9 and its dependent claims, as is allowance of those claims.

Claim 17: This claim has been cancelled, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

New Claims

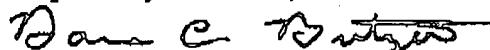
New claims 18 and 19 are believed to recite features that further distinguish them from the applied art.

Closing

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 486-3585. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Dane C. Butzer
Reg. No. 43,521

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Swernofsky Law Group PC
P.O. Box 390013
Mountain View, CA 94039-0013
(650) 947-0700